United Nations S/2008/479

Security Council

Distr.: General
23 July 2008

Original: English

Letter dated 22 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write to you on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Group in New York in connection with the request by the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to the Court to issue an arrest warrant against His Excellency Omar Al-Bashir, President of the Sudan, for crimes against humanity, crimes of genocide and war crimes in Darfur.

While the OIC Group in New York does not condone violence and impunity, there should be a balance between the quest for justice and the need to promote peace and stability. The OIC is therefore gravely concerned about the effect of this action by the Chief Prosecutor of the ICC on the ongoing peace and reconciliation efforts in the Sudan.

The action by the Chief Prosecutor to indict President Bashir will adversely affect the ongoing peace initiatives, including the implementation of Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) and complicate the stabilization efforts in Darfur and also the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Southern Sudan.

The OIC therefore seeks the intervention of the Security Council, using its powers under article 16 of the Rome Statute, to defer any possible indictment against President Bashir, so as to facilitate the political processes under way to achieve a lasting and peaceful settlement of the Darfur crisis.

I would be grateful if this letter is circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Francis K. **Butagira**
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Chairman, Organization of the Islamic Conference Group

08-45076 (E) 060808